

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A retractable hat tether apparatus for a hat having a cap portion, said tether device comprising:

a guide base movably mounted to said cap portion for movement thereof along a fixed path between a first position and a second position;

a flexible tether having a first end and an opposite second end thereof mounted to said guide base; and

a clip device configured for releasable attachment to a user's clothing, said clip device being mounted to said first end,

wherein when said guide base moves along the fixed path between said first position and said second position, said tether and said clip device move between a retracted condition, positioning said tether substantially along the fixed path, and an extended condition, positioning said tether at an exterior of said cap portion to enable the clip device to be mounted to said user's clothing.

2. The tether apparatus according to claim 1, further including:

a guide device mounted to said cap portion along said fixed path, and adapted to cooperate with said guide base for guided movement thereof along the fixed path between the first position and the second position.

3. The tether apparatus according to claim 2, wherein

said guide device cooperates with said cap portion to form a pocket upon which a substantial portion of said tether retracts into said pocket in said retracted condition, when said base is moved to said first position.

4. The tether apparatus according to claim 3, wherein

the length of said tether is similar to the length of travel of said base along the fixed path from the first position to the second position.

5. The tether apparatus according to claim 3, wherein

said guide device and said guide base cooperate to form a zipper mechanism.

6. The tether apparatus according to claim 3, wherein
said guide device is affixed to an interior side of the cap portion.

7. The tether apparatus according to claim 6, wherein
said guide device and said guide base cooperate to form a zipper mechanism.

8. The tether apparatus according to claim 3, wherein
said guide device extends substantially from a frontside of said cap portion to a
rearside of said cap portion.

9. The tether apparatus according to claim 8, wherein
said guide device further extends substantially through a crown of said cap portion.

10. The tether apparatus according to claim 1, further including:
a pull tab member mounted to said guide base for manual manipulation of said guide
base along said fixed path.

11. The tether apparatus according to claim 1, further including:
a snap device configured to mount to said cap portion, and adapted to cooperate with
said clip device for releasable mounting thereof to said cap portion.

12. The tether apparatus according to claim 11, wherein
said snap device includes a snap post sized and dimensioned to snap fit through a slot
in said clip device.

13. A retractable hat tether apparatus for a hat having a cap portion, said tether device
comprising:

a mounting assembly having a guide portion adapted to affix to the cap portion, and a
guide base movably mounted to said guide portion for movement thereof along a fixed path
between a first position and a second position;

a clip device configured for releasable attachment to a user's clothing; and

a flexible tether having one portion thereof mounted to the clip device, and another

portion thereof mounted to said guide base such that when said guide base moves along the fixed path of said guide portion, between said first position and said second position, said one portion of said tether and said clip device move between a retracted condition and an extended condition, enabling the clip device to be mounted to said user's clothing.

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14. The tether apparatus according to claim 13, wherein
said guide portion cooperates with said cap portion to form an elongated pocket upon which a substantial portion of said tether retracts into said pocket in said retracted condition, when said guide base is moved to said first position.

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15. The tether apparatus according to claim 14, wherein
the length of said tether is similar to the length of travel of said guide base along the fixed path between the first position and the second position.

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16. The tether apparatus according to claim 14, wherein
said guide portion is affixed to an interior side of the cap portion.

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17. The tether apparatus according to claim 16, wherein
said guide portion extends substantially from a frontside of said cap portion to a
rearside of said cap portion.

18. The tether apparatus according to claim 17, wherein
said guide portion further extends substantially through a crown of said cap portion.

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19. The tether apparatus according to claim 17, wherein
said mounting assembly is in the form of a zipper mechanism.

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20. The tether apparatus according to claim 13, further including:
a pull tab member mounted to said guide base for manual manipulation of said guide
base along said fixed path.

21. The tether apparatus according to claim 13, further including:

a snap device configured to mount to said cap portion, and adapted to cooperate with said clip device for releasable mounting thereof to said cap portion.

22. The tether apparatus according to claim 21, wherein

5 said snap device includes a snap post sized and dimensioned to snap fit through a slot in said clip device.

23. A hat assembly comprising:

a dome-shaped cap member having an interior side thereof:

10 a mounting assembly having a guide portion affixed to the cap member, and a guide base movably mounted to said guide portion for movement thereof along a fixed path between a first position and a second position;

a clip device configured for releasable attachment to a user's clothing; and

15 an elongated flexible tether having one portion thereof mounted to the clip device, and another portion thereof mounted to said guide base such that when said guide base moves along the fixed path between said first position and said second position, said one portion of said tether and said clip device move between a retracted condition and an extended condition, enabling the clip device to be mounted to said user's clothing.

20 24. The hat assembly according to claim 23, wherein

said guide portion cooperates with said cap member to form an elongated pocket upon which a substantial portion of said tether retracts into said pocket in said retracted condition, when said guide base is moved to said first position.

25 25. The hat assembly according to claim 24, wherein

the length of said tether is similar to the length of travel of said guide base along the fixed path between the first position and the second position.

26. The hat assembly according to claim 24, wherein

30 said guide portion is affixed to the interior side of the cap member.

27. The hat assembly according to claim 26, wherein

said guide portion extends substantially from a frontside of said cap member to a
rearside thereof.

28. The hat assembly according to claim 27, wherein

5 said guide portion further extends substantially through a crown portion of said cap
member.

29. The hat assembly according to claim 27, wherein

said mounting assembly is in the form of a zipper mechanism.

10 30. The hat assembly according to claim 23, further including:

a pull tab member mounted to said guide base for manual manipulation of said guide
base along said fixed path.

15 31. The hat assembly according to claim 23, further including:

a snap device configured to mount to said cap member, and adapted to cooperate with
said clip device for releasable mounting thereof to said cap member.

32. The hat assembly according to claim 31, wherein

20 said snap device includes a snap post sized and dimensioned to snap fit through a slot
in said clip device.